

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
in Providence

SUNG MASS OF THE NATIVITY



Thursday
24 December 2020
10:00 pm

Cover Art: *The Mystical Nativity* (c. 1490-1495) by Jacopo da Sellaio (1441/1442 – 1493). Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut.

THE KALENDAR

S. Stephen's Church
in Providence

EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

24 DECEMBER 2020

SUNG MASS

10:00 PM

Missa 'O magnum mysterium'
Tomás Luis da Victoria (1548 - 1611)

NOTE: Please turn all cell phones, pagers, and similar devices off,
or to silent mode, while you are in church.

ORGAN & VIOLIN PRELUDE (beginning at 9:45)

Sonata III in F, HWV 370

George Frederic Handel (1685 - 1759)

Adagio - Allegro

Largo - Allegro

Guiomar Turgeon, *violin*

THE OPENING RITE

Please stand when the bell is rung.

INTROIT – *Puer Natus Est Nobis*

Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his Name shall be called, Angel of mighty Counsel. (Ps.) O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things. *v.* Glory be... Unto us ...

HYMN 83 – “O come, all ye faithful”

Adeste Fidelis

O COME, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten Son of the Father;
O come let us adore him...

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him...

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee. We give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY *(Please stand.)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING – *Isaiah 9:2-7* *Please be seated.*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96:1-4, 11-12 *Cantate Domino*

Tone VIII

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song; * sing unto the Lord,
all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name; * be telling of his
salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his honor unto the heathen, * and his wonders unto
all peoples.
- 4 For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised; * he is
more to be feared than all gods.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; * let the
sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
- 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; * then shall all
the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.

EPISTLE READING – *Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA – *Dominus dixit*

Tone VI

Alleluia. *V.* The Lord hath said to me, Thou art My Son, this day I have begotten thee. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL – *Luke 2:1-20*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this

thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Fr. Benjamin

THE NICENE CREED *(Please stand)*

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
(Genuflect or
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;

bow)

whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people respond to each petition, "hear our prayer."

Reader

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all those suffering from sickness, all on our parish prayer list, and all who are in pain or distress. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to suffering from pandemic, isolation, and all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in this city, in this country, and all the world. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Please be seated as the Altar is prepared.

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON – *Laetentur caeli*

Tone II

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the Lord, for he is come.

ANTHEM – *In the bleak midwinter*

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, And a mangerful of hay:

Enough for him, whom angels Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel Which adore.

What can I give him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him Give my heart.

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

ORATE, FRATRES *(Please remain standing)*

Celebrant Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this Sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit, and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA & PREFACE

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Domine
Deus Sabaoth: Pleni sunt caeli et
terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
✠ Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy
Glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most
High. ✠ Blessed is he that cometh in
the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B *(Please kneel if you are able to do so)*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks unto thee for the goodness and love which thou hast revealed unto us in creation; in the calling of Israel as thine own people; in thy Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, thy Son Jesus Christ. For in the fulness of time thou didst send him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, thou hast delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before thee. In him, thou hast brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks unto thee, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.
Do this in remembrance of me."



Likewise, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this;

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD,
OF THE NEW COVENANT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU
AND FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."



Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer unto thee, O Father, this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, presenting unto thee from thy creation, O Lord of all, this bread and this cup.

We beseech thee, gracious Father, to send thy Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the New Covenant. Unite us to thy Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being ✠ sanctified by the Holy Spirit. At the last day, put all things in subjection under thy Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of our Lord, blessed Joseph her

spouse, blessed Stephen our Patron, and all thy saints, we may enter into the everlasting heritage of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

✠ By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say

People and Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi, Miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb
of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of
God, that takest away the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.*

THE INVITATION – ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant ✠ Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins
of the world.

People **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof:
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON – *In splendoribus*

Tone I

The dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning.

The following prayer is provided for those watching online to make an act of spiritual communion.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to thee. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee. Let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of thy garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch thy Body, so the soul of thy servant may be healed by like faith in thee, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through thy tender mercy, who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost ever one God. Amen.

HYMN 111 – *Silent Night*

Stille Nacht

SILENT night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

THE CLOSING RITE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Kneeling)*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

DISMISSAL *Please stand.*

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE LAST GOSPEL

Please remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant ✠ The beginning of the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him,

and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (*Here genuflect*)
AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 87 – *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Mendelssohn

HARK! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing...

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing...

ORGAN VOLUNTARY – *Symphonie en Ré mineur, Op. 14* Louis Vierne (1870 - 1937)
VI. Final

Members of the Schola Cantorum

Lori Harrison, soprano
Cory MacLean. Celia Russo. altos
Matthew Buono, tenor
Robert Henry, Devon Russo, basses

Guest Organist

David Heinze
Assistant Director of Music, Grace Church, Providence

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Friday 25 December 2020

Low Mass 10 am (virtual livestream)

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**S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
in Providence**

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The Rev'd William Locke, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev'd Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev'd Gary K. Sturni, *Assisting Priest*
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